

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: IES UTILITIES INC., INTERSTATE POWER COMPANY, and MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. INU-00-5
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ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

(Issued January 4, 2001)

On September 8, 2000, the Utilities Board (Board) expanded its investigation on transmission and distribution reliability, identified as Docket No. INU-00-5, to include generation resource planning for Iowa's three investor-owned utilities, IES Utilities Inc. (IES), Interstate Power Company (Interstate), and MidAmerican Energy Company. The Board expanded the investigation, at least in part, because it appears electric capacity will be potentially tight in the midwest region this coming summer. When capacity is tight, adequate resource planning becomes even more important. In the order expanding the investigation, the Board required the three investor-owned utilities to file certain information on or before March 1, 2001.

On December 8, 2000, IES and Interstate filed a request that the filing date be extended to July 1, 2001. In support of the request, IES and Interstate said this date coincides with the date Interstate is required to file a resource plan with the Minnesota commission. Because IES's and Interstate's resource plans are prepared jointly, personnel could work on one plan that could be filed in both jurisdictions. In the

alternative, IES and Interstate said they could file some updated information by March 1, 2001, and a detailed study on July 1, 2001.

The Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate) filed a resistance to the extension on December 20, 2000. Consumer Advocate noted the information required by the Board is more detailed and requires more explanation than is required by Interstate's Minnesota resource plan. Also, Consumer Advocate said load forecast information must be completed earlier in the year to comply with reliability council requirements.

The Board will not grant any extension. The information required by the Board's order is necessary to assess whether sufficient electric supply resources are available during the summer of 2001. Delaying the filing even one month will decrease the value of the information, at least with respect to dealing with any problems that could arise this summer. Delaying the filing until July would essentially make the information worthless for this summer. The Board believes a proactive, not a reactive, stance is essential to insuring adequate resource planning.

The Board does not view the Minnesota filing as being relevant to the Board's exercise of its statutory duties to insure that Iowa's utilities provide safe and adequate service to Iowa customers. In addition, the information the Board seeks appears to be more detailed and require more explanation than the information filed by Interstate in prior Minnesota resource plans. The Board also notes that the Mid-American Interconnected Network, of which IES and Interstate are members, requires load and capability information for the upcoming summer to be filed in early March. Finally, IES

and Interstate have been on notice since the Board's September 8, 2000, order, as to the information that is required to be filed on March 1, 2001. This is almost six months lead-time. IES and Interstate have not presented any reasons that would constitute good cause for an extension.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The request for extension of time filed by IES Utilities Inc. and Interstate Power Company on December 8, 2000, is denied.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 4th day of January, 2001.